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Sustainable Consumption Practices: A Comparative Study of Legal and Societal Factors Influencing Consumer Behavior in Bihar and Delhi

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Abstract

This research concentrates on the impact of Sustainable Consumption (SC) by considering SC's societal and legal dimensions. It explores the perceptions of consumers in the regions of Bihar and Delhi. SC nowadays focuses on minimising the use of natural resources so that these resources can be available for future generations in the required quantity and quality. SCB intends to reduce waste, pollution, and all other activities contributing to environmental degradation. Addressing these crises in a practical scenario is critical because people are habituated to these negative environmental activities or non-sustainable practices. However, people are unaware of the consequences of the overuse of natural resources and environmental degradation that threatens the ecological balance and future generations' access to these resources. To present a comparative study on the SCB of urban and rural people the researcher has taken the respondents from Bihar (Rural region) and Delhi (represents Urban people). This study examines in what way the legal frameworks, government policies, and societal attitudes shape Sustainable Consumption Behaviour (SCB) in people of two different mentalities i.e. the residents of Bihar and Delhi. It seeks to identify gaps in existing policies and the regulatory measures designed to promote sustainability. Additionally, the current research pointed out how societal factors contribute to Consumption patterns in these regions. It also sheds light on the need for both legal reforms and societal shifts to promote SCB in these regions. The findings focused on critical insights into how legal and societal practices can be changed to encourage SCB at both regional and national levels.

Keywords: *Environmental Policies, Legal Framework, Resource Management, SCB, Societal Practices*

1.0 Introduction

The most important alarming concern of the future of human existence is limited essential natural resources. (Ahmed *et al.*, 2022). These natural resources are a vital requirement (D'Adamo *et al.*, 2023) for the survival of life on this earth. For global environmental protection, preservation (Dasgupta *et al.*, 2022) and propagation its mandate is to adopt Sustainable Consumption Behaviour (SCB) (Deepak *et al.*, 2022) in our day-to-day lives. It means minimizing the exploitation of natural resources, emissions of waste, and pollutants, ensuring that future generations can meet their needs (United Nations, 2020). It emphasises balancing economic growth with environmental preservation and social equity (Driver *et al.*, 2022). Sustainable consumption refers to the use of goods and services that meet the basic needs of individuals while ensuring minimum use of natural resources, and low emissions of waste (Ghosh *et al.*, 2022). Through these SCPs, we can provide a better world for the future generation (United Nations, 2020). It emphasises balancing economic growth with environmental preservation (Jasanoff, 1993) and social equity (Jackson, 2005). Both government intervention through legal frameworks and behaviour changes in societies (Khan *et al.*, 2022); i.e. urban and rural are required for the successful implementation of SC. The crucial role in promoting SC is played by government

by imposing regulations and policies (Li *et al.,* 2022) in the form of environmental protection laws, consumer protection policies and incentives for green businesses.

It is quite natural that laws alone are not sufficient to bring remarkable changes in societies in both rural and urban areas (Middela *et al.,* 2022). Therefore societal values, cultural norms and consumer awareness also significantly shape SCP. To develop effective strategies to promote SCP it is important to understand the legal and societal factors that are influencing SC in two different regions of India i.e. Bihar and Delhi. Where Bihar represents rural societies with the unique context of traditional lifestyles. Delhi on the other hand is an urban society characterised by industrialisation, high income levels and different consumer patterns. Through this comparison, the study seeks to point out in what way the difference in legal structures, economic conditions and social norms affect SCP in each region (Muralikrishna *et al.,* 2022).

Additionally, this research aims to examine the existing legal initiatives taken for promoting SC and explore the potential gaps in the implementation of these policies. Then it will assess the contribution of societal awareness, cultural values and the perception of consumer in promoting or hindering SC practices (Meena *et al.,* 2022). The findings of this work will add value to the existing literature on SCP by narrating how the diverse regional context and governance structures influence the SCP in India.

SCB focuses on consuming environmentally friendly goods and services compared to traditional consumption patterns. This can be possible through the use of sustainable products, adoption of environmentally friendly practices and promotion of conservation behaviours. Nowadays the research on the impact of SCB on the environment is growing. the important findings of this research headed under the following points; (i) resulted in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions & other types of Pollution; (ii) help to conserve natural resources (iii) protect biodiversity. This research pointed out that enhancing SC is an important strategy for protecting the environment and natural resources. Overall, this research suggests that the promotion of SCB is an important technique for safeguarding the environment and natural resources.

2.0 Objectives of the Study

Objectives I and II comprehensively focus on the legal and societal factors that are influencing SC in Bihar and Delhi. The below two objectives are important for understanding the effectiveness of efforts towards S resource use. These objectives are central to the comparative analysis of consumer behaviour across these two different regions in the context of SC.

2.1 Objective I:

The Role of Government in Minimising the Use of Natural Resources in Bihar and Delhi It is directly connected with legal factors like government policies and initiatives which are formulated to promote SC practices (SCP) in Bihar and Delhi. The analysis of the success level of these initiatives includes; (i) Government roles in shaping SCP through the imposition of laws, regulations and public campaigns. (ii) Differences in policy implementation and enforcement between rural (Bihar) and Urban (Delhi) areas. (iii) Diversities in the legal mechanisms which include RCP (resource conservation programme), and PCR (Pollution Control Regulations) for SCB.

By researching these objectives the people will come to know about the impact of legal frameworks on SCB. It will also help in exploring the procedures of government interventions to change the consumption patterns in two regions.

2.2 Objective II:

To Identify the Accomplishment Rate of Initiatives that are Taken by the Society towards SC of Natural Resources in Bihar and Delhi This objective aligns with SC practices associated with social factors. This Objective analysis the way through which the individuals and societies in Bihar and Delhi reacted to SCP. Measuring the success rate of initiatives aimed at SC of natural resources can be challenging as there are many factors to consider and it can be difficult to quantify the impact of individual action. However, several metrics can be used to assess the overall progress of sustainability efforts in this area, including resource efficiency, renewable energy penetration, carbon emissions and natural resource depletion. It is important to note that it's difficult to achieve a 100% success rate, and progress is being made on many fronts but it's a complex and gradual process.

3.0 Literature Review on SCB

A literature review on sustainable consumption would likely involve researching and summarizing existing academic studies on the topic. The main focus of such a review would be to understand the current state of knowledge about sustainable consumption and its potential importance for addressing environmental and societal issues. Sustainable consumption refers to the use of goods and services that have a lower environmental impact and promote social well-being (Qian *et al.,* 2022). It is seen as a way to address the negative impacts of overconsumption and consumption patterns that are not in line with the principles of sustainable development (Ramachandra *et al.,* 2000). Research in this area has generally found that sustainable consumption practices can lead to a reduction in the use of natural resources, a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, and a decrease in waste generation. Additionally, sustainable consumption practices can improve social equity (Tsunekawa *et al.,* 2003) by providing access to essential goods and services and promoting fair trade. It is also increasingly suggested in the literature that engaging consumers in sustainable consumption is important not only for environmental and societal reasons but also for businesses and markets as well. As it shifts consumer preferences to more sustainable products and services, opening new market opportunities and driving innovation (Zhou *et al.,* 2022).

Moreover, sustainable consumption is also seen as an important tool for achieving long-term economic growth and stability. In conclusion, the literature review shows that sustainable consumption is an important concept for addressing the environmental and societal challenges caused by overconsumption (Yeo *et al.,* 2022). It is a way to promote more sustainable patterns of production and consumption that are less resource-intensive and promote social well-being, which can bring multiple benefits to society and the market.

An increasing amount of research has established SCP as an important field of study, emphasising its significance in mitigating environmental deterioration and advancing societal well-being. Furthermore, studies highlight the positive social effects of sustainable consumption, including increased accessibility to necessities, decreased disparities, and encouragement of fair trade programs. Government laws are crucial when it comes to studying how legal structures and societal attitudes (Wong *et al.,* 2022) might promote sustainable consumption, according to existing literature.

According to research, official legislative mandates are frequently superseded by local socioeconomic situations and cultural norms in these regions when it comes to influencing consumer behaviours. However, Delhi, an industrialised and urbanised area, has various problems because of its higher income levels and consumer lifestyles, which both encourage increased consumption and offer chances to implement cutting-edge sustainability techniques (Rhaouti *et al.,* 2023).

In summary, research shows that the concept of sustainable consumption is complex and impacted by a variety of factors, including market dynamics, regional considerations, social norms, and legal frameworks. This study compares how legal and social factors affect consumer behaviour in Bihar and Delhi, drawing on prior research that emphasises how crucial it is to match social norms with legal frameworks to encourage sustainable purchasing (Thøgersen, 2000). The research findings will enhance the overall comprehension of how social and legal circumstances influence sustainable consumption behaviours in various regional contexts, especially in India.

4.0 Methodology of the Study

A structured questionnaire was sent to inhabitants of Delhi and Bihar via email and WhatsApp. This process was used to gather primary data from the respondents. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the contribution of individual acts to the promotion of SC (Objective-II) as well as the efficacy of the government programs (Objective-I). The questionnaire asked about respondents' consumption habits, their knowledge of relevant laws and policies, and their comprehension of SCB.

5.0 Demographic Insights for the Comparative Study on SC in Bihar and Delhi

Examination of the demography results: According to the aforementioned data in Table 1, Bihar has a higher proportion of self-employed workers with modest income levels and concentration on service-oriented jobs. Delhi, on the other hand, presents an older and comparatively wealthier populace, with a sizeable portion of upper-

Table 1. Demographical insights of Bihar and Delhi

Regional Trends	Findings	Analysis
Gender diversity	Out of 372, 93 females and 111 males are from Bihar. In Delhi, the sample was collected from 123 men and 45 women.	It is quite evident from the data that in both locations majority of the respondents are males. the gender distribution of the Bihar sample is fairly balanced and the Delhi sample reflects minor bias towards men.
Age and Education	The data was skewed under 18-28 years of age. 105 and 81 respondents out of 372 are from Delhi and Bihar respectively. 53% of all respondents had a Ph.D. in Bihar and 51% of the respondents in Delhi are pursuing advanced degrees.	It is valid to state that the respondents' educational attainment is adequate. The respondents of both regions are literate and knowledgeable.
Occupational diversity	In Bihar, a high portion of respondents i.e. 90, work in the formal service sector and 48 work for themselves. Delhi is experiencing a high unemployment rate i.e. 87% followed by those working in the service industry(42) and independent contractors (18).	Hence it can be stated that the occupational trends are quite different in the regions. In both the regions a negligible percentage of homemaker and business occupation is found.
Income Distribution	While Delhi had a more affluent population with 33 respondents earning between 10-15 lakhs and 42 earning 15 lakhs and above, a substantial portion of the population in Bihar fell into the lower income groups (0-1 Lakh: 87 respondents).	It is found that in Delhi there is a greater representation of higher income groups and it indicates the metropolitan status. Delhi exhibits a more affluent population and Bihar represents a mediocre income group of people.

income brackets yet a high unemployment rate. The workforce in Bihar is younger, more self-employed and focused on service-oriented positions with intermediate pay levels. Delhi's population is portrayed as being older and comparatively wealthier, with a sizable portion falling into upper-income categories, yet it also has a high unemployment rate. Understanding how sociocultural and legal issues may affect sustainable consumption behaviour (Villanthenkodath *et al.,* 2022); differently in these two locations is made possible by these demographic patterns.

6.0 Findings on Objective-I:

The Role of Government in Promoting SCB in Bihar and Delhi through Minimisation of Use of Natural Resources

6.1 Government Proposals

A comparative evaluation of how the initiatives of the governments of Bihar and Delhi might reduce the use of the amount of natural resources. This is the initial goal of the study. The results offer a perceptive glimpse into how well government activities are observed in these two regions. The majority of respondents from Bihar and Delhi think their respective governments are actively working to reduce the use of natural resources.

In particular, 270 (69%) out of 372 respondents, expressed satisfaction with the government's attention to environmental preservation and resource management programs Table 4 and Figure 1..

6.2 Regional Differences

Significantly, 69% of the respondents in Bihar (141 out of 204 said that the government was acting meaningfully, whilst 31% of the respondents (63 respondents) disagreed. This reveals that the people have a fair amount of faith in the government's ability to advance SCB in Bihar. Comparably, in Delhi, 23% (39 respondents) indicated a lack of awareness or unhappiness with the government's efforts, whereas 77% (129 out of 168) of respondents agreed that the government is actively addressing the issue. Delhi's conspicuously greater number of affirmative answers may be explained by the city's evident urban SCB measures which include more stringent pollution laws and initiatives to conserve natural resources.

6.3 Types of Government Initiatives

The 2nd part of this goal went further into comprehending the particular kinds of measures that the governments in Delhi and Bihar are thought to be carrying out in order to reduce the consumption of natural resources. The authors have also gathered data on the names of government actions in the form of different activities they show to motivate the people for SC.

6.4 Regional Disparities in Types of Government Initiatives

Bihar: 32% of respondents reported that all types of programs are visible (Table 2). The rest 68% of respondents reported that all types of government activities are visible. This difference in viewpoints raises the possibility that state-wise govt. programmes are either poorly conveyed or delivered unfairly (Table 2).

Delhi: Environmental activities are more widely known in Delhi. Only 39% of respondents said that the government's efforts were not visible. 61% of respondents said that all kinds of projects are being carried out (Table 3).

As air pollution is an important or serious issue it draws attention to these initiatives. In Delhi, government initiatives are lacking in reducing water pollution and mediocre initiatives were taken to manage the garbage.

This is our third set of information and this table gives us the data about whether the initiatives towards Sustainable Consumption in both the states Bihar and Delhi are going in the right direction or not. This question arises because in some areas, the officials usually slow down the process or the authorities delay the work for

Table 2. Observation of respondents of Bihar on Government's initiatives

Respondents count	Government Initiatives	Result
23%	Waste reduction initiatives	Waste management and control
7%	Water pollution initiatives	Water conservation in certain locations
2%	Air pollution initiatives	Enhance air quality

Table 3. Observation of respondents of Delhi on Government's initiatives

Respondents count	Government Initiatives	Result
48%	Waste reduction initiatives	Waste management and control
3%	Water pollution initiatives	Water conservation in certain locations
10%	Air pollution initiatives	Enhance air quality

Table 4. Count Do those initiatives go in the right direction or not?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
No	93	51	144
Yes	111	117	228
Grand Total	204	168	372

Table 5. Count of Are you practising some habits(good) for sustainable consumption?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
No	12	24	36
Yes	192	144	336
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

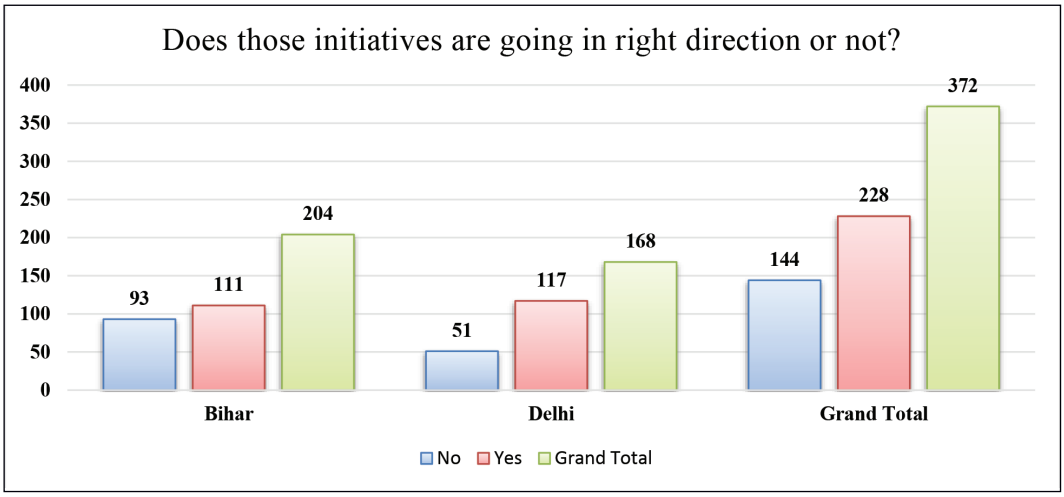


Figure 1. Do those initiatives are going in the right direction or not?

their purposes. Here, we can see that in Bihar, almost half of the respondents believe that the initiatives are not going in the right direction. But, in Delhi, the count of this factor is a little bit greater.

The government measures in Delhi and Bihar were making progress towards reducing the consumption of natural resources. Most respondents believe the govt. is working to achieve sustainability goals, still a notable percentage of 39% voices uncertainty regarding the course of these projects (refer Table 4 and Figure 1).

This is our fourth set of information for objective-I and this set of data gives us the data about the respondents if they are practising some good habits to promote Sustainable Consumption. This table 5, fig 2 is important for the survey because the initiatives should be taken by the government as well as the common people. In Bihar, the majority of the respondents i.e., (~94)% are practising good habits for Sustainable Consumption. In Delhi, there is also a majority of respondents i.e., (~85) % are practising good habits for the promotion of Sustainable Consumption.

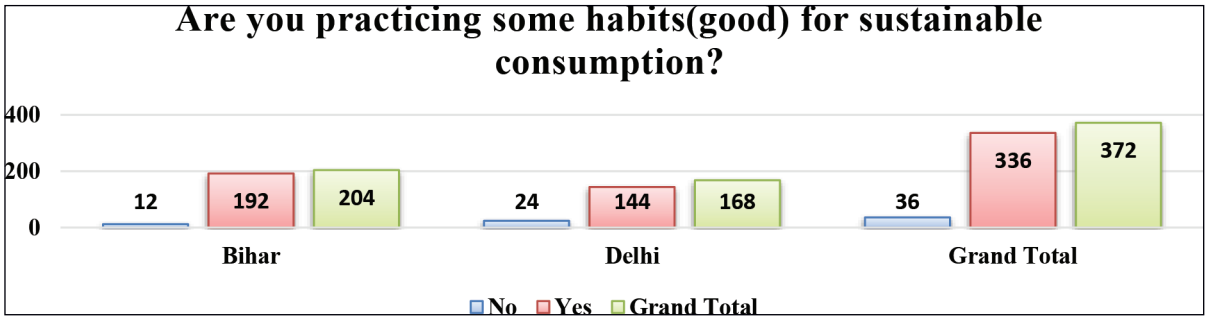


Figure 2. Are you practising some habits (good) for sustainable consumption?

Table 6. Count of By when these initiatives are achieved by the government (in your opinion)?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
It will take time	63	69	132
The success of these initiatives depends mostly on people.	90	78	168
Very soon	51	21	72
Grand Total	204	168	372

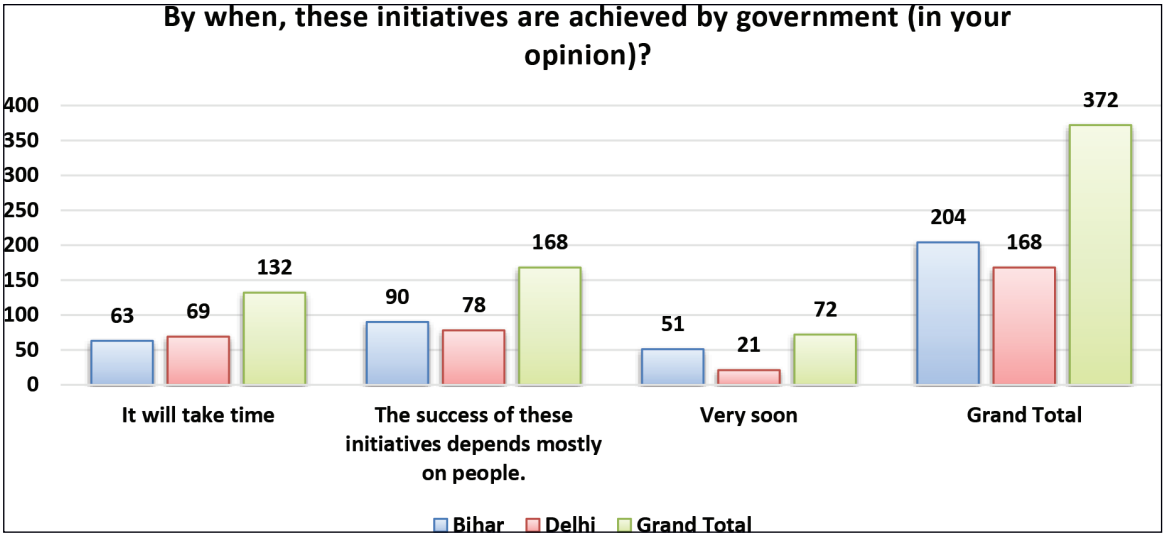


Figure 3. By when are these initiatives achieved by the government (in your opinion)?

This is the fifth and final set of information (Table 6, Fig 3) the Objective-I and this table gives us the count of respondents' opinions of when these initiatives towards Sustainable Development are to be achieved by the government in both states. In Bihar, 30% of the respondents believe that it will take more time to achieve the initiative; 44% of the respondents believe that the success of initiatives depends on the activeness of common people and 25% of the respondents believe that the initiatives will succeed very soon. In Delhi, 41% of the respondents believe that it will take time; 46% of the respondents believe that it depends on common people and 12% of the respondents believe that the initiatives will succeed very soon. The 12th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of "responsible consumption and production" established by the United Nations which focuses on ensuring the good use of resources, improving energy efficiency and guaranteeing sustainable infrastructures.

According to the study, a resounding majority of the participants in both Bihar and Delhi reported forming eco-friendly behaviours indicating that the people are responding favourably to SC practices.

7.0 Analysis of Findings on Objective I

The government is taking initiatives to promote SC behaviour among the public in both regions. The majority of the public believes that public involvement is crucial to the success of Government programmes. This emphasises that the people and government have a shared role in accomplishing sustainability goals.

There is room for improvement in both regions in increasing public visibility and engagement with environmental initiatives.

Both regions have some visible government actions to minimise the use of natural resources, but the effectiveness and awareness of these initiatives vary significantly.

The need for increased transparency, better communication and more community involvement in the planning and execution of Sustainable policies to ensure that government initiatives not only achieve their intended goals but are also perceived positively by the public across both regions.

The government's role is essential but the individual efforts of residents in both Bihar and Delhi are crucial to driving SC practices forward.

There is a shared belief in both the regions that the government is moving in the right direction but success will ultimately depend on a collective effort involving both governmental actions and individual commitment to SC practices (refer, Table 6).

8.0 Policy Formulation by the Government

Active involvement of citizens in designing and implementing the SCP initiatives may be introduced by the Government.

The government may promote Public awareness campaigns to promote SCP through media outreach, public events and partnerships with local influencers and institutions.

Based on specific challenges and awareness level of each region the government should adjust policies and resource allocation.

9.0 Findings on Objective II

To access the accomplishment rate of initiatives taken by the people towards SC of natural resources in Bihar and Delhi.

From the above Table 7 (fig. 4) data, we can see the regularity of people buying sustainable consumer goods. 25% of people of Bihar 'Always' buy sustainable goods whereas around 18% of people of Delhi buy sustainable goods or we can say that around 43% of people always buy sustainable goods. Around 56% of people don't buy sustainable goods regularly, and less information on sustainable goods or the unavailability of goods can be a reason for this. The economical approach proposes the concept of waste as an added value providing new perspectives and demonstrating its environmental sustainability. Conducting campaigns around different parts of the state especially around towns and small villages and providing subsidies to the companies producing sustainable goods can/will fix the issue.

From the Table 8, (fig. 5), we get to know that around 30% of people from Bihar and around 45% from Delhi think that the availability of sustainable goods in adequate amounts will be a good initiative to increase the level of sustainable consumption among common people. Whereas 40% of the total people from both states

Table 7. Count of How often are you buying sustainable consumer goods?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
Always	93	69	162
Sometimes	84	72	156
Rarely	6	12	18
Not Sure	21	15	36
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

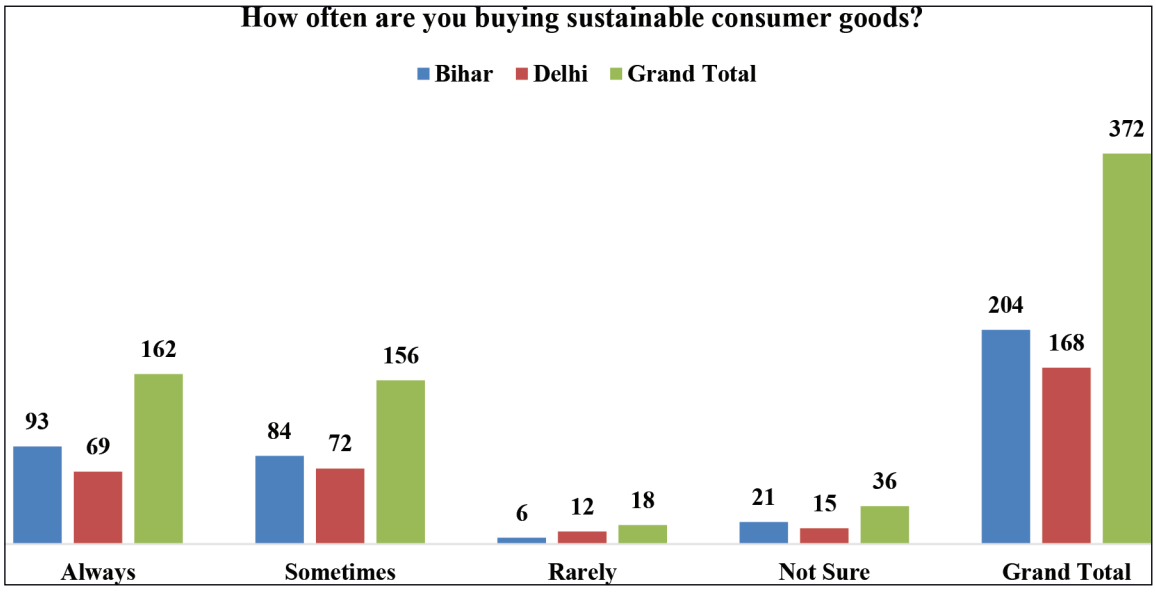


Figure 4. How often are you buying sustainable consumer goods?

Table 8. Count what initiatives that can increase the level of sustainable consumption among common people of your locality.

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
Adequate amounts and different varieties of these goods must be available in the market	63	75	138
An awareness programme regarding sustainable consumption and its impact on the environment must be launched	87	63	150
The production unit of such goods must get subsidies from the government	54	30	84
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

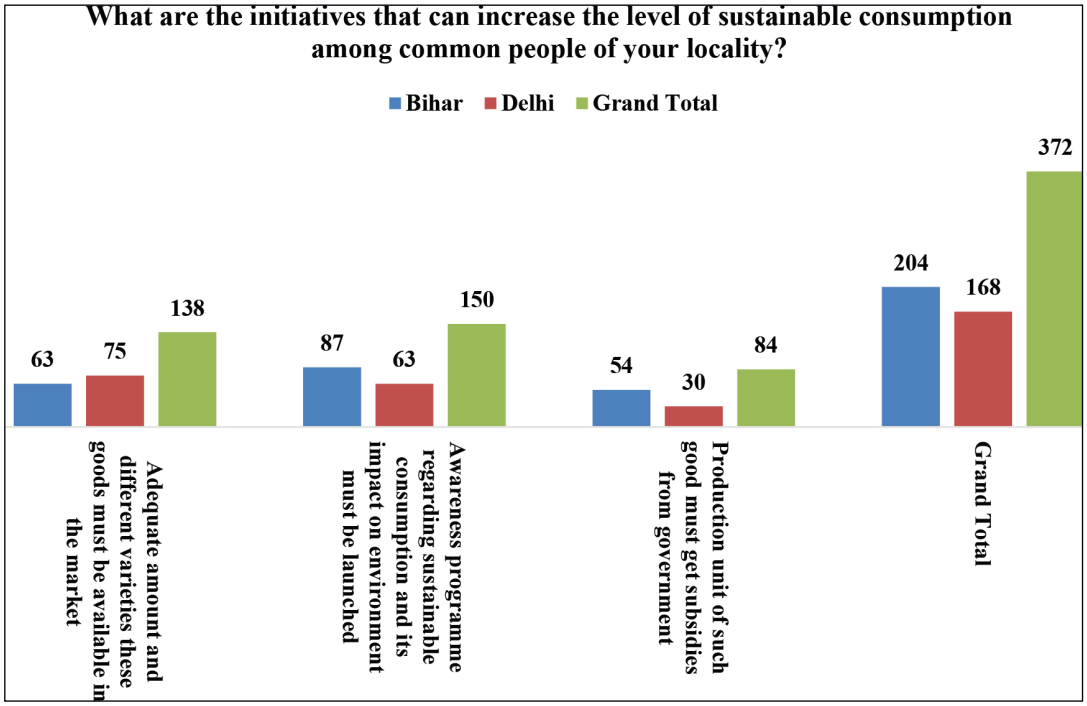


Figure 5. What are the initiatives that can increase the level of sustainable consumption among the common people of your locality?

Table 9. Count of What according to you is the outcome of Sustainable Consumption?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
Enhance healthy atmosphere	24	12	36
Preserve natural resources	30	24	54
Reduce diseases associated with polluted air or water	9	9	18
All of the above	141	123	264
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

believe that awareness programmes regarding sustainable development will have more impact on increasing sustainable consumption. And there are around 22% of people from both states that think if the government would give subsidies to the production of sustainable goods could be also a good initiative to increase sustainable consumption.

Figure 5. What are the initiatives that can increase the level of sustainable consumption among the common people of your locality?

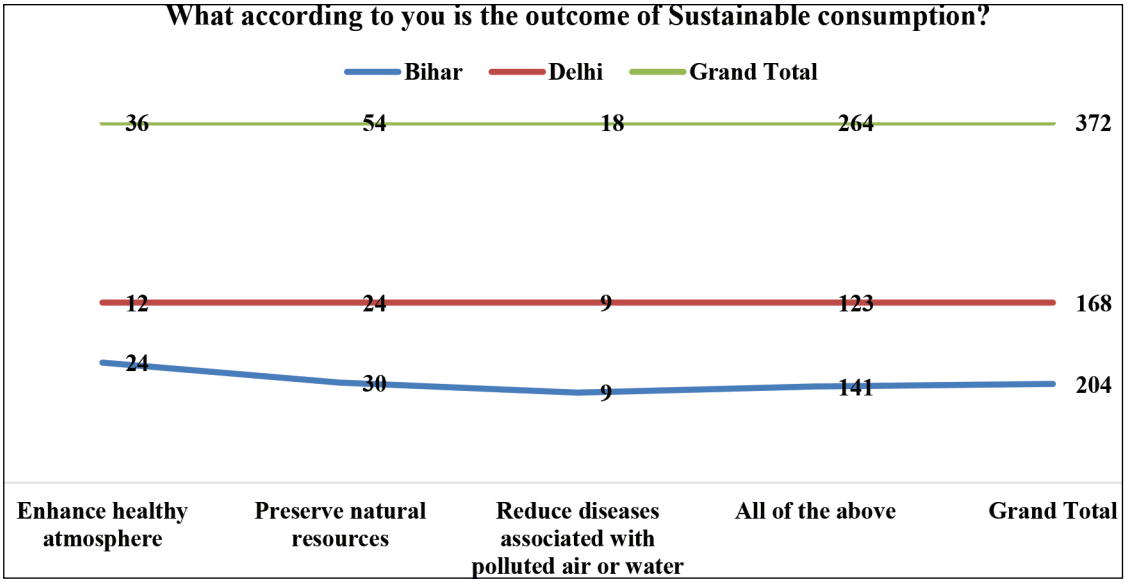


Figure 6. What according to you is the outcome of Sustainable Consumption?

Table 10. Count of are the people aware of sustainable consumption and its outcome?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
Absolutely	69	54	120
Not Sure	57	45	102
Rarely	81	69	150
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

From the above Table 9 (fig. 6), we get to know that around 11% of people from Bihar and around 7% of people from Delhi which together make around 10% of people of both states believe that sustainable consumption will result in enhancing a healthy atmosphere. Similarly, around 15% people of the total people from both states believe that it will help in preserving natural resources and around 4% people think that it will reduce diseases associated with polluted air or water. From 2000 to 2019, total domestic material consumption rose by more than 65 per cent globally, amounting to 95.1 billion metric tons in 2019. The majority (around 71%) of people from both states believe that sustainable consumption will help them achieve all three good outcomes for the environment

From this Table 10, we have found that around 19% of the people of Bihar are absolutely aware of sustainable consumption and its outcome whereas around 15% of people of Delhi agree with the same. Around 27% of people of Bihar and Delhi combined are not sure if they are aware of sustainable consumption and its outcomes whereas around 40% of people of Delhi and Bihar combined rarely know anything about sustainable consumption and its outcomes.

From the above table 10, we can conclude that all the people from Bihar and 97% of people from Delhi agree that if they take small steps towards sustainable consumption it would help future generations to experience luxuries that may astonish if the steps are not taken but it has also been seen that few people from Delhi also think that it will not make an impact some big steps should also be taken.

10.0 Analysis of Findings on Objective-II

Market availability, awareness programmes and government support are required to boost SC practices in both regions.

Holistic benefits of SC show that the people in both Bihar and Delhi have a clear understanding of the wide-reaching positive impacts of Sustainability initiatives.

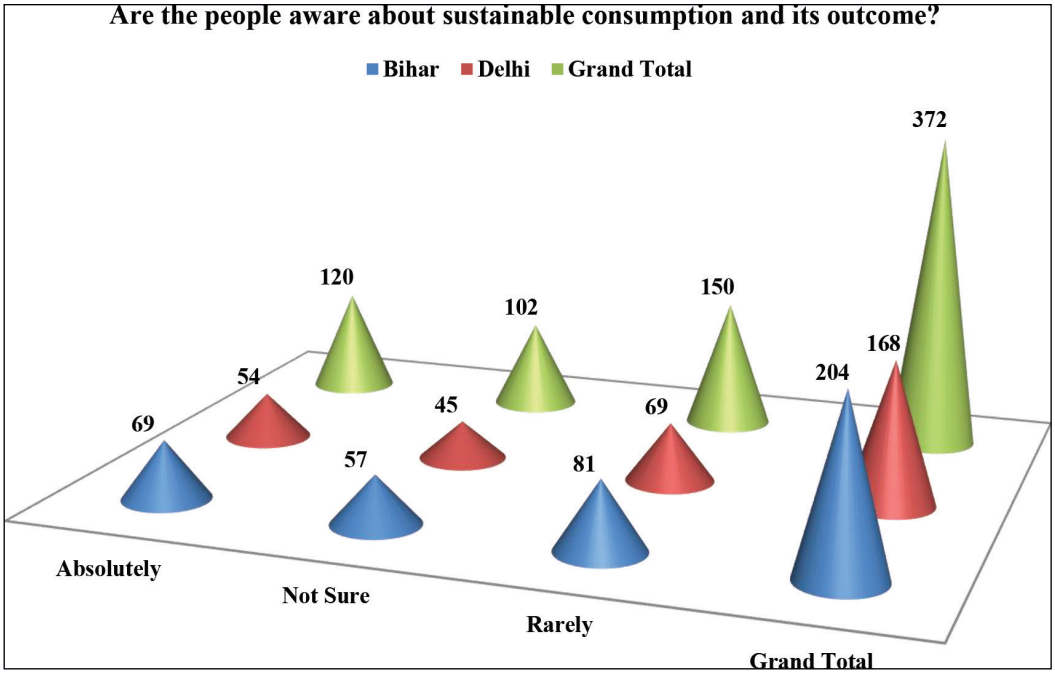


Figure 7. Are the people aware of sustainable consumption and its outcome?

Table 11. Count if people will take small steps towards Sustainable Consumption, do you think it would make a noticeable change for upcoming generations?

Row Labels	Bihar	Delhi	Grand Total
No		12	12
Yes	204	156	360
Grand Total	**204**	**168**	**372**

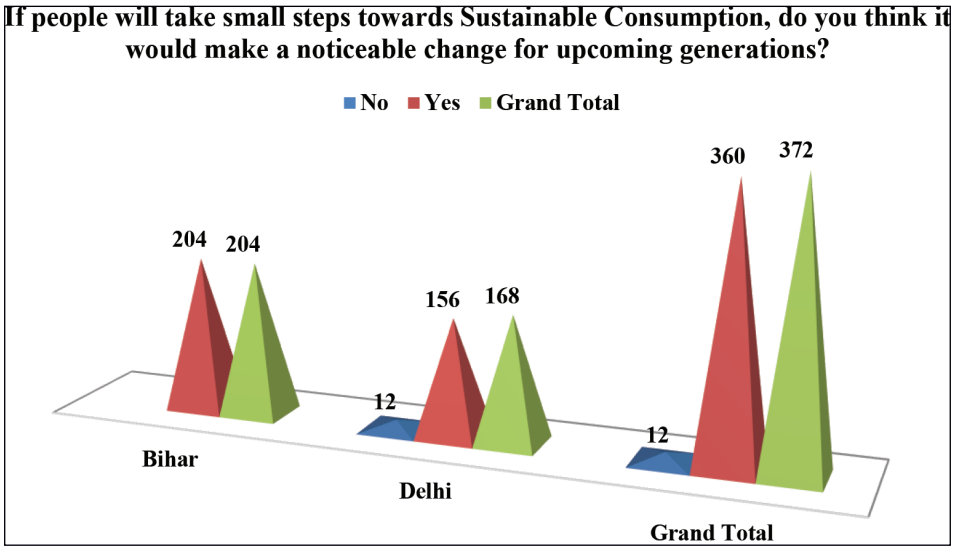


Figure 8. If people take small steps towards Sustainable Consumption, do you think it would make a noticeable change for upcoming generations?

This suggests a high level of awareness regarding the interlinked benefits of SC practices.

Focus on environmental and resource preservation aligns with the broader goals of SC, which aim to reduce the strain on natural resources while maintaining ecological balance.

Health concerns are less prioritised this suggests that current awareness initiatives might need to place more focus on the direct health advantages of SC.

Moderate awareness levels suggest that while some initiatives may have reached their intended audience, a large majority of the population is either unsure or unaware of SC practices indicating that more work is needed to increase awareness (Table 11).

Uncertainty and gaps in knowledge (refer figure 7) indicate that while people may have heard about SC they may not fully understand its implications or benefits signalling the need for more comprehensive and clear educational efforts.

Low awareness signals a need for targeted, widespread, and impactful initiatives to promote SC practices in both regions.

A high level of optimism and confidence suggests that current initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable behaviours have been successful in instilling a sense of responsibility and hope among the population.

Collective impact suggests that awareness programs and initiatives that emphasise this message have been well received and individuals are motivated to contribute to long-term sustainability efforts (refer, figure 8).

Low levels of scepticism indicate that while a few may not be convinced of the effectiveness of small steps, the vast majority are willing to participate in sustainable action, which is a promising outcome for the long-term success of these efforts.

11.0 Policy Formulation by the Government

1. The availability of Sustainable products and services in both Urban (Delhi) and Rural (Bihar) areas should be enhanced by the government by encouraging firms to expand their offerings. Subsidies, grants and low-interest loans may be provided to local businesses and startups for the promotion of SC Practices.
2. The government may plan for a Regional awareness program to impart information about the multi-dimensional benefits of SCP.
3. Stricter environment regulations and resource management policies should be implemented by the government.

12.0 Future research Agenda of the study

The primary focus of this research was to identify, discuss, and find a way out of the loopholes in the current initiatives and policies taken by the government toward the Sustainable Consumption of the Environment. But, as of now, this research conducted over a small group of people is not enough for the government to develop policies and initiatives out of it and implement them on a large scale. To achieve that, we have to research much larger and different social groups. Sustainable consumption defined in the Oslo Symposium (1994) means "the use of goods and services that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimizing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations." As the authors have researched Bihar and Delhi only, so generalization is not possible.

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